

It was a most interesting experience watching this fascinating phenomenon of nature at such close quarters. If it could have been reproduced in a film the mother *Calotes* might have well proved a star performer. One regrets having missed the opportunity.

GUJARAT.
20th July, 1941.

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XIV.—REMARKABLE FEEDING HABITS OF AN INDIAN CARP [*BARBUS (PUNTIUS) DOBSONI* DAY].

The following observation may prove of interest to fellow fishermen and naturalists.

On repeated occasions I found the stomach and intestine of the Carp, *Barbus (Puntius) dobsoni* caught in rivers around Poona, much distended with a mass of finely disintegrated vegetable matter in appearance like chewed-up grass.

The source of this diet intrigued me greatly, as I could not detect much aquatic vegetation in the gravelly pools, where the fish were caught.

The explanation came forth, when I noticed a number of large carp disporting themselves close to a herd of village buffaloes wallowing in a pool of the Nira river. Observation with field glasses from an elevated point disclosed fish approaching the posteriors of the ruminants and gorgeing themselves on their freshly produced dung, thus obtaining this predigested diet so to say 'straight from the horses mouth' or rather the reverse.

My observations were confirmed by Mr. McCann, who had noticed a similar occurrence near the Pinjrapole at the Ulhas river.

The fish weighed from 4 to 14 lbs. and tallied with the particulars given in books of reference for *Barbus dobsoni*, a common carp in our parts.

Nearly all of them were caught on an unshelled groundnut used dry fly fashion.

116, KOREGAON PARK,
POONA.

22nd July, 1941.

M. SUTER,

XV.—A MANTIS-BLOODSUCKER TRAGEDY.

While watering my garden on the evening of the 28th July I spotted a Mantis (*Deiphobe ocellata*) making a meal of a young Bloodsucker (*Calotes versicolor*) almost as large as itself. The